



OSFS Statement



The Eskimo Nebula ngc2392- from the NASA collection.

Newsletter of the **Ottawa Science Fiction Society July 2013,**

Issue 411, Volume 37, Number 7. Founded Feb 1977, Incorporated Jan 16, 1979

Join us for dinner at The Emerald Chinese Buffet, in the Eastview Plaza at Montreal Road near the Rideau River, on Tue Jul 30th, 2013, at 6pm.

Place: The Emerald Buffet, 33 Selkirk Ave (at Montreal Road), 613-749-2088

Website (theirs):

<http://www.emeraldbuffet.com> All-You-Can-Eat. Traditional Chinese and Vietnamese dishes. Salad bar, Sushi bar, Dim Sum, Gluten and MSG free options. Check out our dessert bar and fresh fruit. Over 150 items to choose

from.

RSVP on our Meetup site at

<http://www.meetup.com/ottawasfs-ca/events/130715882/>

or email treasurer@ottawasfs.ca

The **reservation** is in my name (Sheila). We hope to see you there. :)

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Membership information Mail Dues to: Ottawa Science Fiction Society, 1568 Merivale Road, Suite 304, Ottawa, ON K2G 5Y7 website www.ottawasfs.ca executive exec@ottawasfs.ca Rates Regular \$18 Family \$24 Extraordinary & Senior \$12	Board of Directors President Diane Bruce Vice-President Grant Duff Secretary Grant Duff Appointed Officers Archivist Grant Duff Auditor Constitution Advisor David Hurst Editor Grant Duff Programming Alex Binkley Treasurer Sheila Brown Webmaster Sheila Brown	Contents Coming Events 4 LOC 10 Astroexploration 11 Astronomy Film Festival 8 Physics Reviews tablets 9 OSFS Logo Bruce Wright Cover art © NASA Pub by: Ottawa Science Fiction Society, Creators of Maplecon

Editor's Blather:

This is more the way summer should be after the heat of last week. We have a dinner meeting July 30th at the Emerald Buffet on, I would have said, Montreal road just over the bridge from Rideau Street. It is at the back of the parking lot as part of the strip mall. I haven't been there for years and it had a different name then so I am looking forward to rediscovering the place.

FOR YOUR VIEWING PLEASURE

Venus lies low in the west after sunset. Saturn lies in the Southwest overnight. Mars and Jupiter lie close together in the dawn twilight, with Mercury lower down. Look for Mercury low in the dawn sky. The Moon will be New on 6th August.

Coming Events

List submitted by Lloyd Penney

July 12-14 - **Polar Chill**, Sheraton Parkway Toronto North, Richmond Hill. Relaxicon. - www.tcon.ca.

July 13 - **Oshawa Comic Con**, 15 Harmony Rd. N., Oshawa. GoH: Ray Olubowale. -

www.popculturecanada.ca.

July 26-28 - **ConBravo**, Hamilton Convention Centre, Hamilton, ON. Geek/fandom convention. -

www.conbravo.com.

July 26-28 - **TFCon 2013**, Delta Meadowvale Hotel and Conference Centre, Mississauga. Transformers toy convention. Guests: Alex Milne, Casey Collier, Livio Ramondelli, James Roberts, Venus Terzo, Dick Gautier, Jack Angel. - www.tfcon.ca.

July 26-28 - **Ryu-Kon 2013**, The Event & Conference Centre of Niagara Falls, Niagara Falls, NY. Anime & gaming convention, special theme is steampunk. - www.ryu-kon.com.

August 2-3 - **Atomic Lollypop**, Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, Toronto. Anime convention and more.

- www.atomiclollypop.com.

August 2-4 - **Condition Wasteland 2013**, Four Points Sheraton Hotel, London, ON. Furry convention.

Guests: Caltro, Eevachu. - www.conditionfurry.ca.

August 3-4 - **AniBash**, Seneca Park, Rochester, NY. Anime convention. - www.anibash.webs.com.

August 16-18 - **Otakuthon**, Palais de congres, Montreal. Anime convention. - www.otakuthon.com.

August 18 - **Woodstock FanFest**, Civic Centre Arena, Woodstock Fairgrounds, Woodstock, ON. Toy convention and more. - www.toycon.ca.

August 22-25 - **Fan eXpo**, Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto. Guests: Dean Cain, Richard Dean Anderson, George Takei, Stan Lee, David Hasselhoff, Lena Headey, many more. -

www.fanexpocanada.com.

August 22-26 - **Camp Feral!**, Algonquin Park. Furry camp. - www.campferal.org.

Worldcon ??? 8 29-02 [Worldcon](#)

August 30 - September 1 - **Queen City Conquest 2013**, Buffalo Niagara Convention Center, Buffalo.

Gaming convention, Guests: Sean Patrick Fannon, Matt James. - www.queencityconquest.com.

September 8 - **Canadian Toycon**, Holiday Inn Burlington, Burlington, ON. - www.toycon.ca.

September 13-15 - **Science Fiction: The Interdisciplinary Genre** - An Academic Conference at McMaster University, Hamilton, ON. Guests include Robert J. Sawyer. - serruys@mcmaster.ca.

September 14-15 - **Field Marshal Gaming Convention**, 420 Wing RCAF Association, 1000 Stevenson Rd., Oshawa. - www.fmgcon.com.

September 20-22 - **RocCon 2013**, Main Street Armory, Rochester, NY. Anime/comics/media SF convention. Guests: Christopher Doohan, Noel Gugliemi, Cary Hiroyuki, Tagawa, Daniel Kash, Vic Mignogna, Ray Olubowale, Uncle Yo, Bella Hudson, J.G. Hertzler, Anne Serling, Joe Jusko, more. - www.rochesterscificanimecon.com.

September 21 & 22 - **Toronto Mini Maker Faire**, Artscape Wychwood Barns, Toronto. Technology faire. - www.makerfairetoronto.com.

September 28 – **CapCon**, Ottawa, ON. Model competition. - www.ipmsottawa.com/capcon/index.htm.

September 28-29 - **Phantasm 23**, Peterborough Public Library, Peterborough. Gaming convention. - phantasm.pfga.ca.

October 4-6 - **Can-Con 2013**, Minto Suite Hotel, Ottawa. Literary SF convention, 2013 CanVention. Guests: Robert J. Sawyer, Hayden Trenholm, more TBA. - www.can-con.org, Twitter @canconsf, page on Facebook.

October 4-6 - **Genrecon 2013**, Delta Hotel, Guelph. Geek culture convention. - www.genrecon.com, Twitter @genrecon, page on Facebook. October 11-13 - Conclave 37, DoubleTree by Hilton Detroit-Dearborn, Dearborn, MI. SF literary convention. Guest: Allen Steele. - www.conclavesf.org.

October 11-13 – **Salute to Supernatural**, Toronto. - www.creationent.com/cal/supernatural_toronto.htm.
October 18-20 - **CastleCon 2013**, Best Western Plus Durham Hotel & Conference Centre, Oshawa.
Gaming convention. - www.castlecon.net.
October 26-27 - **Unplugged Expo 2**, Daniels Spectrum Centre, Toronto. Geek culture convention. Guests:
Kurt Lehner, Susan Roman, Stephanie Morgenstern, Mai-Sheri, more. -
www.unpluggedexpo.com.
October 31 - November 3 - **Youmacon 2013**, Cobo Center, Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Centre,
Detroit, MI. Anime, comics and steampunk convention. Guests: Todd Haberkorn, Kyle Hebert,
John Patrick Lowrie, Steam Powered Giraffe. - www.youmacon.com.
November 1-3 - **Reversed Polarity**, Sheraton Parkway Toronto North, Richmond Hill. Doctor Who 50th
Anniversary convention. Guest: Peter Davison. - www.tcon.ca/reversedpolarity, Twitter
[@reversedpolarity](https://twitter.com/reversedpolarity), page on Facebook.
November 1-3 - **HammerCon V**, Plaza Hotel, Hamilton, ON. Gaming convention. - www.hammercon.ca.
November 1-3 - **N2U**, Travelodge Hotel, Ottawa. Anime & gaming convention. - www.n2u.ca.
November 3 - **Canadian Toycon** Toronto, Sheraton Airport Hotel & Conference Centre, Toronto, ON. -
www.toycon.ca.
November 15-17 - **Astronomicon 12**, Radisson Hotel Rochester Riverside, Rochester, NY. Literary SF
convention. Guests: David Gerrold, Liana K, Ed the Sock, Dr. David Stephenson, Tom Rockwell,
Peter David, Vincent DiFate, more. - www.astronomicon.info, page on Facebook.
November 29 - December 1 - **SFContario 4**, Ramada Plaza Hotel, Toronto. Guests: Seanan McGuire,
Dave Kyle, Chandler Davis. - www.sfcontario.ca.
December 6-8 - **Smofcon 31**, Royal York Hotel, Toronto, ON. Convention runners' convention. -
www.smofcon31.org.
December 14 - **Frostcon 2**, St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts, Toronto. Cosplay/geek convention. Guests:
Twinfools, VandorWolf, Faxen Cosplay, Toronto Batman, That Joker Guy, Erin Cossar. -

ontariocosplaycommunity@hotmail.ca, page on Facebook.

January 17-19, 2014 - **Legendary ConFusion**, Dearborn DoubleTree Hotel, Dearborn, MI. SF literary convention. Guests: Mike Carey, Rich Morris, Ian Tregillis, Mark Bernstein. -

www.confusion.stilyagi.org.

March 7-9, 2014 - **Furnal Equinox 2014**: Circus, Sheraton Toronto Airport Hotel & Conference Centre, Toronto. Furry convention. Guests: Sabretoothed Ermine, Sandy Schreiber. -

www.furnalequinox.com.

April 4-6 - **Ad Astra 2014**, Holiday Inn Markham. Guests: David Weber, Anne Groell, Patricia Briggs, Steven Erikson. - www.ad-astra.org, Twitter @adastrasociety, page on Facebook.

April 6, 2014 - **GTA Comic-Con**, Oakville Conference Centre, Oakville. - www.gtacomiccon.com.

April 25-27, 2014 - **FilKONtario 24**, Delta Airport West, Mississauga. Guests: S. J. Tucker, with the Heather Dale Band; Gary Ehrlich, Piers Cawley. - www.filkontario.ca.

April 25-28, 2014 - **Costume Con 32**, Sheraton Airport Hotel, Toronto. - www.costumecon32.com.

June 6-8, 2014 - **Bloody Words XIII**, Hotel TBA, Toronto, ON. Mystery convention. Guests: Vicky Delany, more. - www.bloodywords.com.

The **Ottawa International Film Festival's** TAC (the industry event), is pleased to announce the return of its Pitch THIS! program, presented by 9

Story Entertainment.

Pitch THIS! allows content creators the opportunity to pitch their project ideas to a panel of international broadcasters. Following the five-minute pitches, panel members will share their insight and provide valuable feedback to the presenters.

The panelists will assess each pitch based on their creative, innovative and financial merits as well as their marketability and overall appeal.

Animators are encouraged to submit their ideas. To qualify for the program, proposals from animators must include the following:

- Project synopsis, including target audience, technique, format, rough budget (1-2 pages)

- One episode synopsis

- Bio of key executives

- Short paragraph indicating your current stage of development and any additional information (i.e. interactive components, merchandise, etc.)

- Concept art (2 or 3 images)

TAC will be accepting proposal by email (tac@animationfestival.ca) until **July 1st, 2013**.

Android for Tablets & Phones

"Android" is Google's operating system that is on most of the non-Apple "smartphones" and tablets produced around the world. In fact, outside of the US, there are more Android phones and tablets in use than Apple's iPhone and iPads. That is even changing in the US, as more and more people like the less expensive option, which has more features.

Android tablets and phones are wonderful - I use an Android phone/tablet, as well as an 8" Android tablet every day. However, these wonderful "mini computers" that we can carry around need protection from many of the same things that are bad for computers.

By using a Gmail (Google email) account, your phone or tablet can automatically back everything up into your Gmail account, and if you have to replace it, or add another phone or tablet, it will automatically add all the software and settings, including wifi access info, in far less time than setting it all up again. :)

I highly recommend that owners of Android systems download from the Google PlayStore: Avast for antivirus, Lookout for antimalware and phone backup and locating if lost or stolen. I recommend you do not download software "apps" from non-Google PlayStore sites, as this is a good way to get infected files.

A quick tip - if you want to check things out on a larger computer, just email yourself the link to anything you want to download on your Android tablet or phone, and it will make it much easier to check it out.

SC Brown Computer Tamers <Sheila@computertamers.ca> wrote:

LOC

Dear OSFen:

Many thanks for issue 410 of the Statement...we're recovering from the huge flooding rains we had in Toronto on July 8, and the computer's in the shop...so, on Yvonne's laptop, I'll write up a letter and e-mail it to you when the computer comes home.

Was Landsat 7 in the Florida Labs, just outside of Ottawa? I've been to that clean room as part of a tour from some years ago.

Dinner-gatherings? I hope people are enjoying them. Perhaps there are other groups that overlap the interests of the club that you could invite? I am thinking of the gamers, anime fans and steampunkers, just to name three. If numbers are dwindling, we've got to reunite, no matter how different our interests are. I prefer hard copy, too, but I know how much printing and postage costs are. I hope OSFS can stay as a club...there are many so-called organizations out there, but many of them are merely Facebook pages.

My letter...we still have pubnights in Toronto, two fannish, one Doctor Who, one pagan, and another of older fans in the city, I think... Our fannish pubnights have had poor attendance lately...I will need to ask those on the local mailing list what they'd like to do in the future.

Perhaps for an upcoming project, an Ottawa version of Art-O-Con would be good...it's just a big dealers' room with a little bit of programming, and this could go out to all of local fandom and its interests.

Hope everyone will have a great weekend...let's see when this gets to you. Take care, and see you next issue.

Yours, Lloyd Penney

THE SEARCH FOR LIFE

Ken Tapping, 30th July, 2013

In one of the science fiction stories I read a long time ago, our first explorers on Mars were surprised by an alien being who came out of the Martian desert and announced its life processes were based on the element silicon. That struck me as an extremely unlikely introduction, which was of course in English. When we do first find life on other worlds, it is more likely to be bacteria or simple plants and animals, Even on Earth today they are the most common forms of life. It is very likely that they will not come forth and announce themselves; we will have to search for them.

Here on Earth it is hard to find places where there are no living things. They have even colonized environments that are hostile to us, such as near-boiling, mineral-laden water, and rock cavities kilometres underground. In the 1960's, one of the Lunar Surveyor spacecraft took bacterial stowaways along with it. They were still living on the Moon years later, when Apollo astronauts visited its

landing site. They had survived years in a vacuum, with large temperature variations and high levels of radiation. The rule seems to be that if living creatures can get somewhere, they will make a serious attempt to colonize that place.

Makes you wonder just how effective those Ultra-violet sterilizers are. ED

This leads to some interesting points when we go looking for life on other worlds. It could be that if conditions are remotely suitable, life will make a serious attempt to get going there. However, it also means that we should try not to take unintended colonists along with us. Our ambassadors to other worlds have to be as sterile as we can make them.

The Apollo astronauts landed on the Moon in what was essentially a one-room spacecraft. To get to the lunar surface they had to put on space suits and then vent the air from the spacecraft, open the door and crawl out.

Human beings, along with all our cousins in the animal kingdom are not very clean. We carry along more than half our weight in bacteria. Our skins are covered with them. As we move around, we shed

bacteria, dead skin, hairs and perspiration. That does not include whatever we breathe out. The air in the Apollo lander was loaded with that stuff; it was vented out onto the Moon. The space suits would have been covered with our debris too. We don't know how high the contamination risk is for the Moon; although we know there is one. However, for Mars and other worlds with atmospheres the issue could be a lot more serious. This subject is getting a lot of discussion around the science community at the moment.

Unless we use spacecraft that are large enough to carry along effective sterilization systems for cleaning unwanted passengers from equipment and the exteriors of space suits, it might not be practical for the initial life search missions to involve astronauts at all. Maybe it would be better to continue to send robots until we know that sending people won't cause unwanted environmental contamination. It is possible to render instrumentation and robots highly sterile, using

processes that would kill a human being.

Years ago, science fiction writer Arthur C. Clark wrote a short story about the first manned expedition to Venus. The intrepid explorers did their thing, dumped their garbage and left. Rudimentary Venusian life forms found the garbage and the terrestrial bacteria in it, and the resulting pandemic wiped out life on that planet before we even knew life was there. This does not mean that there should be no manned exploration of the universe. We need to do that. It just means we need to do it carefully, with proper preparation.

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